A SOLEMNE AND SEASONABLE WARNING

To all Eſtates, and Degrees of Perſons throughout the Land:

For holding faſt the League and Covenant with *England*, and avoiding every thing that may prove a ſnare and temptation to the breach thereof:

By the COMMISSIONERS *of the Generall Aſſemblie.*

EDINBURGH:
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Edinb. 19. Decemb. 1646.

THe Commiſſion of the Generall Aſſembly Ordains this Warning to be forthwith Printed, and that thereafter it be ſent to Presbyteries, Requiring them, immediately after the receipt thereof, to cauſe every Miniſter of their number read the ſame diſtinctly, and explain it to their People upon a Sabbath day in their ſeverall Kirks, And that they report accompt of their diligence with the firſt conveniencie: Appointing in the mean time, that to morrow the ſame be read in all the Kirks of this Citie.

A. Ker.

A Solemne and Seasonable WARNING,

to all estates and degrees of persons throughout the Land;

By the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly.

Edinburgh 17. December 1646.

THe conscience of our duty, and of the great trust reposed in us, suffereth us not to be silent, nor to connive at the present dangers which may justly be apprehended and expected from the enemies of this Cause and Covenant; Who although they cannot in this conjuncture of time appeare in the same manner as formerly they have done, yet having retained the same principles (while they seeme to lay aside their former practises) do in a more covert and dangerous way still drive at their owne ends; And as Sathan is neither sleeping nor idle, though he appear not alwayes as a roaring Lyon; So these who are inspired and acted by him, have their wheeles still moving, though sometimes they make no great noise. Wherefore that we may truely and faithfully contribute what is incumbent to us, for preventing or removing any occasions of new troubles or differences betweene the King and his People, in both, or either of those united Kingdoms, or betweene the Kingdomes themselves; And lest the Church of Christ, and the true reformed Religion be againe tossed with another, and perhaps a greater tempest in the deepth, after we seemed to be neer the harbour; We have found it, not only competent to our place and calling, but necessarie for us (according to former laudable presidents both old and late) To emit this new Seasonable Warning to the People of God in this Land, and to all

Estates and Degrees of men therein; Whom we exhort, That first, and above all things, They apply their thoughts to make peace with God, To take notice of the remaining and renewed tokens of divine displeasure against the Land, To tremble at the remembrance of former, and appearances of future judgements, To lament after the Lord, To lye low before the Throne of Grace, To cry mightily to heaven for dispelling that cloud of sin which separateth between our God and us, and for turning away that cloud of wrath which hangeth over our heads. There is cause to be humbled and to repent, as for all our iniquities, So for the too little assistance which hath bin given to such as have born the heaviest burthen, and suffered most in this Cause; And for the too much compliance with, and indulgence to many who have beene active in the late execrable Rebellion. We know that none can reach the perfection of their duety, neither will the Lord reckon with his People according to his Justice, but spare them who walk in the integritie of their Spirits, as a man spareth his own son, So that they may rejoyce in his mercy, notwithstanding of their short-comings, wherein they doe not allow themselves; But wilfull neglects are just grounds of a great controversie on the Lords part, and of deep humiliation on ours: And we conceive that the failings of many are such, because the Word of the Lord is a burthen unto them; And though they walk in the wayes of their own heart, yet they say they shall have Peace; We would have none that are thus guilty to account light of it, and say, *Is it not a little one?* Every duty whereto we are oblieged in the Covenant, is of great consequence, and breaches even in smaller things prove inlets unto more grievous revoltings.

When we consider how many who were once open opposers or secret underminers, being received to the Covenant, yet remaines disaffected to the ends of the same; We cannot but think that

that we walk in the midſt of ſnares, and that myſteries of iniquitie work amongſt us, which may produce moſt ſad and lamentable effects, unto the prejudice of our Religion and Liberties. Therefore, Becauſe God hath no greater quarrell againſt a Nation then that of a broken Covenant; Let all who feare an oath, remember the vows of God which are upon them, *Watch and Pray*, and take good heed that they bee not cheated nor charmed into a violation of all, or any of the Articles of that Sacred and Solemn League and Covenant; And let theſe eſpecially be obſerved and avoided, who do, or ſhall endeavour a diviſion and breach between the Kingdoms, or the making of any factions or parties contrary to the Covenant, under pretence of preſerving the King and His Authority, whilſt they do not conſtantly and ſincerely proſecute and preſſe our frequent deſires of His ſubſcribing the League and Covenant, and giving ſatisfaction in all things to the juſt deſires of both Kingdomes; Which underhand dealing can prove nothing elſe, but an abuſing of His Majeſtie for mens own deſignes: We wiſh that none ſuffer themſelves to be deceived by any falſe gloſſes of the Covenant, under which ſome may poſſibly urge the keeping of it, ſo as to draw us into a certain breach thereof, and preſſe the defence of the Kings Authoritie and of Religion, to engage us in thoſe wayes that would tend to the ruine of both: We are not now to preſſe the want of full ſatisfaction in the much deſired work of Uniformity, as the ground of a breach betweene the Nations; Though we ſtill conceive, this Nation will never be wanting to proſecute that work to the uttermoſt of their power in all lawfull wayes, according to the League and Covenant.

Theſe Kingdoms, after many fervent Supplications and faithfull endeavours of all the Lovers of Truth and Peace, have been happily united into a League and Covenant, which to this day hath been kept inviolably, notwithſtanding of all the oppoſition

of open Enemies, and plotting of ſecret Undermíners; And we are confident, that none but ſuch as have hearts full of Atheiſme and Treachery, will attempt the violation thereof, in whole, or in part; And that if any ſhall do the ſame, They ſhall expoſe themſelves to the Curſe of Almighty God, who wil be avenged upon all that Swear falſly by his Name. We know that men of perverſe mindes, wanting the fear of God, and meaſuring all things by their own ends, may conceive of it as alterable, or at leaſt, that all the Clauſes or Heads thereof are not ſo to be ſtuck upon, but that ſome one or mo may be diſpenſed with upon civil advantages: But *we have not ſo learned Chriſt* or his Word; Both Nations have Covenanted with God, and each of them with another, in things moſt lawfull and neceſſary for the preſervation and good of both, without any limitation of time: And therefore we and our poſterity are obliged before God unto the obſervation thereof, *as long as the Sun and Moon ſhall endure*. The ſenſe of theſe things ought to be ſo deeply engraven upon the hearts of all that are in truſt, That as they ſhould from their ſouls abhor every thought of a breach with *England*; So ſhould they carefully and wiſely ſtudy to avoide every thing that may prove a ſnare and tentation unto the ſame. Amongſt other things, If his Majeſtie ſhall have thoughts of comming to this Kingdom at this time, he not having as yet ſubſcribed the League and Covenant, nor ſatisfied the lawfull deſires of his loyall Subjects in both Nations, We have juſt cauſe to fear that the conſequences of it may be very dangerous, both to his Majeſtie and theſe Kingdoms; Which therefore we deſire may be timely prevented.

For ſo long as his Majeſtie doth not approve in his heart, and ſeal with his hand the League and Covenant, we cannot but apprehend, that according to his former Principles, he will walk in oppoſition to the ſame, and ſtudy to draw us unto the violation thereof,

thereof, and the dissolution of the Union so happily begun between Us and our Brethren, To weaken the Confidence and trust, and to entertain Jealousies, and make divisions amongst our selves; Neither is it possible, But that our receiving Him in this present posture of affairs, will confirme the suspicions of the English Nation, of our under-hand dealing with him before his coming to our Army; And make them, not without cause, to think, That We purpose to dispose of him without their consent, and to their prejudice; Which is contrary to the Profession of these that were in trust at His Majesties first coming to the Scots Quarters, and overthroweth all the Arguments that have been used by the Commissioners of our Parliament in their Papers concerning *The disposing of His Majesties Person by the joyne advice and common consent of both Kingdoms given in to both Houses of Parliament in* England; Nor doe we see how we can vindicate such a practice from a direct breach of our engagements to them by Covenant and Treaty; Which were not only to expose us into the hazard of a Bloody Warre, but to involve us in the guilt of Perjury. And what greater disservice could be done to His Majestie and his Posterity, then to give way to a course that might prove prejudiciall to their interest in the Crown and Kingdome of *England*.

Our carriage now for many yeers past, in the midst of many tentations, hath put us beyond all suspicion in the point of our Loyalty; Nor have we the least thoughts of deserting the Kings Majesty in a just and good cause, Being bound by our Covenant in our severall vocations to endeavour with our estates and Lives, to preserve and defend His Person and Authority, in the defence and preservation of the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdomes; And so farre as His Majestie shall be for these, We really are, and we trust the rest of his Kingdoms will be for him: Yet we cannot deny, but openly avouch it, That if His Majestie

Majestie (which the Lord forbid) shall not satisfie the just desires of His People, Both Nations stands mutually obliged by that inviolable Covenant to pursue the ends therein expressed (which cannot be divided) against all letts and impediments whatsoever. It is therefore our most earnest and longing desire, That as these who are in trust with the publike affairs of this Kingdom have heretofore with all earnestnesse & care in all their addresses dealt with His Majesty, with much strength of reason and vehemency of affection, so they would [illegible] deal with him, to grant his Royall consent to the desires of both Kingdoms, for setling Religion according to the Covenant, and for securing a perfit and durable Peace (which we look upon as the only hopefull means of preserving himselfe, His Crown, and Posterity) That His Majesty may return to His Houses of Parliament in *England* as a reconciled Prince to satisfied Subjects, And that acclamations of joy may be heard in all His Majesties Dominions, and no sound of Warre heard therein any more, except against the bloody Irish Rebells, under whose barbarous and cruell persecution, our distressed Brethren, both in this Kingdom and in Ireland, are still groaning and crying out to us and to our Brethren in England, *Be at peace among your selves and come to help us.*

A. Ker.